ऊर्जा और व्यापार व उद्योग के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की संभावनाओं की जांच करने के लिए प्रतिनिधि मण्डलों ने यात्राएं की हैं ।

(ग)"व्यक्ति से व्यक्ति" सम्पर्क को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार दक्षिण अफ्रीका में एक उपयुक्त स्थान पर सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का प्रस्ताव रखती है । दक्षिण अफ्रीका के साथ सीधा वायु सम्पर्क स्थापित करने के लिए प्रस्ताव की सक्रिय रूप से जांच की जा रही है ।

Afgan Refugees in Delhi Camps

1682. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Afghan refugees are in a state of despair in Delhi refugees camps; and

(b) whether Government are negotiating with Afghanistan Government for their return to Afghanistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Afghan nationals who are residing in Delhi have made their own arrangements of stay. Many of them are staying in private camps. Government are not running any camp for Afghan nationals in Delhi at present.

(b) Government expect these Afghans to return as soon the situation in Afghanistan stabilises. Government are in touch with the Government of Afghanistan in this regard.

Restriction on Indian Space and Missile Programme by Western Powers

1683. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western powers have placed restrictions on country's space and missile programmes while ignoring similar programmes of China and Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in a bid to scuttle the country's missile programme, Western powers are trying to place the successfully test fired "Prithvi" under the missile control technology regime (MTCR); and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) At present 22 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U. K. and USA) are members of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The objective of MTCR has been to restrict transfers of missile equipment and certain kinds of space related technology which is capable of being used for missile development. The MTCR is not an international treaty, but it is an ad hoc export control regime and its member states implement its (MTCR) provisions through their respective national legislations.

Under its legislation arising out of MTCR related obligations, the U.S. Government imposed sanctions on Dept. of Space and Indian Space Research Organization on May 11, 1992. Subsequently, in June 1992, the U.S. Government notified a list of countries with respect to specific projects to which U.S. companies cannot report without licences if they have reason to believe that the product would be used for missile design, development, production and use. India is mentioned in this list along with China and Pakistan.

(b) The MTCR is aimed at preventing proliferation of ballistic missiles having a range of more than 300 Kms. and a warhead of more than 500 kgs. weight. "PRITHVI" missile is being developed in two versions—150 Kms. range and a 250 Kms. range. Therefore, strictly speaking Prithvi should not attract MTCR related restrictions though, in the recent past, these restrictions have been imposed on the ground that Prithvi comes close to the MTCR threshold.